

WISC. Landmarks Newsletter



Members for 2007

New or renewed:

Commissions: Appleton, Burlington, Columbus, De Pere, Dodgeville, Eau Claire, Evansville, Fond du Lac, Hales Corners, Iola, Janesville, La Crosse County, Lake Geneva, Monroe, Neenah, New Berlin, Oregon, Oshkosh, Platteville, Racine, Reedsburg, Richland Center, Sauk City, Sauk County, Stoughton, Thiensville, Waukesha, Waupaca, Wauwatosa, West Allis, Town of Westport.

Individuals: Clark House Design, Fort Atkinson; Geoffrey Gyrisco, Madison; Carol Krug, Madison; Mary Poser, Columbus; Ruth Voss, Marshfield.

Organizations: Friends of Historic Fond du Lac, Joanie Dreifuerst, president; Friends of the Old School (in Owen), June Roohr, president.

You can still join for 2007 with the membership form in this issue on page 4. Commissions should send a list of commissioners with postal and email addresses.

Candidates for new WAHPC directors

Ron Langacker, Fond du Lac, and Shirley Brabender Mattox, Oshkosh, are the new nominees for director positions on the WAHPC Board for 2008-09. Langacker chairs the Fond du Lac Historic Preservation Commission. *In accepting a nomination, Langacker mentioned his appreciation for "assistance WAHPC has given our Board and Ms. (Joanie) Dreifuerst's organization Friends of FdL" during the protracted St. Louis church matter.* Mattox has served on the Oshkosh City Council and the city plan and landmarks commissions. Nominated and continuing for the WAHPC Board will be Debi Hankel, Waukesha; Bill Weinshrott, Fond du Lac; Linda Muldoon, Appleton; and Patricia Wolfe, West Allis. Leaving the board at the end of 2007 will be Mark Ihm, Platteville, and Patricia Araktingi, La Crosse. The election will begin during the Evansville meeting on October 20.

October 19-20, 2007 Autumn Meeting Ready for Evansville...

The time for you to register for WAHPC's fall meeting in Evansville is now. A registration coupon is on page 4. You'll be in historic buildings and tour inside houses. *More:*

• **Friday--Emphasis on basics, 1:30-5 p.m., Union Bank & Trust, 2 East Main Street:** Restoration in Evansville, Wisconsin Historical Society on preservation law, Wausau's dealing with an NRHP district, design with Dan Viste of Mazomanie.

Awards follow--see page 3.

• **Saturday--Emphasis on "doing," 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 312 South Third Street:** Preservation roundtable (your stories) plus funding/financing; keeping business in historic spaces; art glass restoration with Linda Muldoon; brick pavers in Evansville; Wisconsin Historical Society's Jim Draeger.

• **Dramatic conclusion:** Saturday, 6 p.m., in the Holmes House/Leota School for Girls (1910), 443 South First Street, a new play, *The School for Girls* by Evansville's Susan Finque, theater person busy in Seattle, Washington, and Milwaukee and elsewhere. Seating limited to 20, so reserve by calling 608-882-0949.



Evansville Friday meeting place: Elegance of the late 19th century shows on the Union bank facade. Note festoons, geometric details, brick corbels.



John W. Steinmann. Courtesy of Monticello Area Historical Society. Thanks to Roger Dooley, Monticello.

Architecture: Finding John Steinmann

John Steinmann (1914-87) will be part of our Evansville program October 20. We'll meet in

of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Steinmann designed the Karakahl inn in Mount Horeb, the Wisconsin pavilion for the New York world's fair in the early 1960s--pavilion now rebuilt at the edge of Neillsville, high schools, other institutional buildings and houses, one of these being the Prudhon House (1967) at 245 Clifton Street in Evansville. As is true for other mid-century mod-

Basic Preservation: Know about architecture styles, elements



Continuing to show modernism. Our Saturday meeting place in Evansville. Monticello architect John W. Steinmann's St. John's Lutheran Church (1957-58). An institutional interpretation of Frank Lloyd Wright mixed with mid-century modern style. Horizontal lines, clerestory windows, minimal obvious decoration. Note the small centrally positioned cross.

his late 1950s St. John's Lutheran church. Son of an architect and father of one, too, John Steinmann was born in Monticello and died in Madison. An architecture graduate of the University

ernists, some of his work is being remodeled--a bank in Stoughton, and some is being demolished, his Timbers restaurant in Platteville. More at Evansville... Thanks to researcher Jamie Rowe, Poynette; WHS's AHL.

About WAHPC's newsletter

August 15, email from a La Crosse historic preservationist: "...it is not the ONLY statewide preservation newsletter, it is the best! You do a great job. Wonderful architectural tidbits that I wouldn't find otherwise."

Elkhorn facade grants

Elkhorn is offering grants of up to \$7,500 for exterior improvements to "help restore the downtown's original beauty," said Julie Taylor, a City Council and preservation commission member. Funding comes from a city tax increment financing district. Among recipients are Jim and Marilyn Schoberg for their J. Roberts Fine Men's Apparel Big and Tall. Redoing the facade cost more than \$7,500, but "served as a catalyst for other property owners to make facade improvements." Source: Janesville Express online, October 7, 2007.

Watching from afar

For even more weeks now, I've been watching for the good news that the 160-year-old or so Derleth blacksmith shop in Sauk City would be moved. When we visited in mid-September, the building was gone, cut down, a few blocks of its limestone sitting around. Walgreen's is on its way now on the site, the block across from where we used to live. The Sauk City Historic Preservation Commission tried.

Meanwhile, a couple of blocks north in the late 19th century Freethinkers' hall (1884) designed by Alfred Clas, they're planning to bring back ballroom dancing, and they invited architectural historian Sidney Robinson to help them "take our first baby steps into the field of historic preservation." Retired from the University of Illinois-Chicago, Robinson is on the faculty for the Taliesin



Sauk City Walgreen's site... Derleth building no longer in sight.

architecture school. There you have it, from raw commerce doing in a place to an educated discussion.

From afar in Norway UP/Michigan, Your editor, Donald Michael Aucutt

National Register

Here are Wisconsin buildings and places listed on the National Register of Historic Places since our last issue. The National Park Service administers the register. Most nominations are made through the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) in Madison. The list is sorted by location, starting with Cashton.

Albert and Theresa Marz House, 805 Cashton Avenue, Cashton. Listed 8/16/07.

John and Flora Gilbert House, 357 North Main Street, Oregon. Listed 9/06/07.

Weekly updates are at <http://www.cr-nps.gov/nr/ndex.-htm>. and at the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

'Preserving a Sense of Place' WHS at the Plaza in Eau Claire

The Wisconsin Historical Society is sponsoring a two-day, October 26-27, 2007, local history and historic preservation conference in Eau Claire. Historic preservation topics will be public relations, identifying community assets, "The Top Ten Ways to Mess Up a Historic Building," and preservation stories. Presenters will include WHS staff, Genell Schuerell from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Pat Ivory from the Eau Claire Department of Community Development, architect Charles Quagliana of Madison and Joe Lawniczak from Wisconsin Main Street. A two-hour bus tour of historic Eau Claire is scheduled Friday, with the city Landmarks Commission and the Eau Claire Historic Preservation Foundation as sponsors. The conference location will be The Plaza Hotel & Suites on West Claremont Avenue. More: Amy Norlin, 608-264-6579, amy.norlin@wisconsinhistory.org.

WAHPC preservation meeting contributors

Mark Ihm, Platteville; Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison

For \$50 contribution or more for our spring or fall meetings.

Preservation news

WAHPC

Treasury
We have \$1,344.49.

Awards
Five WAHPC preservation excellence awards will be presented in Evansville **October 19--6 p.m., Eager building (1900), East Main Street.**

The nomination requirement was simply that a nominated site or person link directly to commission activity--any sort of direct tie. Fond du Lac, Neillsville, Platteville and Wausau work will be honored.

Award winner speaks

Joanie Dreifuerst, Fond du Lac WAHPC award recipient in April, says she "wants the city to do more with historic preservation." "With officials' help, new businesses could build in historic buildings, rather than constructing

new ones, she said," reported the Fond du Lac reporter (online October 4, 2007). She spoke at a slimly attended city workshop visioning Fond du Lac's next 20 years.



Wisconsin Historical Society's Jim Draeger was in Portage in August to present a new historical marker honoring Portage-born writer Zona Gale. WHS administers the marker program.

National Trust/Wisconsin Field Office

Starting November 1, Trent Magrif will be in charge of the Wisconsin office. A native of Marquette, Michigan, he has been director of Preservation Oklahoma and Preservation Delaware. He succeeds Jeanne Lambin.

Preserve America

Lodi, Mazomanie and Stoughton have been named Preserve America cities which makes them eligible for grants from the federal program. Preserve America is a federal program combining preservation with historic activities.

P R A I R I E

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Jeffris events



This time the theater:
The Midwest Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, organizer of the *Curtains Up! Restoring Historic Theatres and Revitalizing Communities*

workshop, announce that registrations for the seminar are being accepted. Financed by the Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, the programs will be November 8-10 at the Pfister Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. Information can be found at www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/workshop.

Around Wisconsin

Janesville

From the Janesville Gazette, "thumbs up": "To Tom Laughlin of rural Lake Geneva. He has become known as 'that barn guy,' and for good reason. Last year, his short documentary on Wisconsin barns aired on public television. He has become a supporter of the state's barn preservation efforts, which are supported by the UW Extension and the Wisconsin Historical Society. This is, of course, America's Dairyland. Barns were once the center of hard labor that provided milk checks-the main source of income for farm families across the state. But more and more are falling into disrepair and being torn down. After all, aging barns can create enormous upkeep costs. Once the cows are gone, barns serve as little more than expensive storage units for many farmers. Laughlin is finishing a second documentary, 'American Barn Stories and Other Tales From the Heartlands.' It is scheduled to air this fall and will try to motivate people to save these relics of our rural heritage."

Wausau

The Charles and Dorothy West Manson House has been designated a Wausau city landmark. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the house was conceived and built between 1938-41. The designation was recommended by the Wausau Historic Landmarks Commission and approved by the City Council. Designation means the house is subject to review for exterior alterations.



Merrill Granite and Marble Co. building (1905) is a newly designated Merrill Historic Landmark. City Preservation Commission Chair Jeremy Thompson said landmark property owners are expected to follow local preservation guidelines. Wausau Daily Herald online, August 11, 2007.

Words... "If you don't know where you came from you surely don't know where you're going," wrote Wayne Kling, Tomah, in a letter to the editor, after demolition of the Indian Agency Building (1870) there. He continued: "...Portage, Watertown and Green Bay have deemed it a necessity to save their old buildings... they take pride in their history..." *Tomah Journal* online, August 21, 2007.

Calendar

- **October 19-20.** Autumn WAHPC meeting. Evansville.
- **October 26-27.** Wisconsin Historical Society preservation meeting. Eau Claire.
- **November 8-10.** "Restoring Historic Theaters Revitalizing Communities." Historic theater workshop. In Milwaukee, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, funded by the Jeffris Family Foundation, Janesville. Information NTHP Midwest Region midwest@nthp.org tel 312-939-5547 extension 37221

2008

- **March 7.** Commission training, Wisconsin Historical Society, Pyle Center, Madison.
- **March 10-12.** "Beyond the Velvet Ropes: Successful House Museums for the 21st Century." House museum workshop. National Trust. Funded by Jeffris Family Foundation, Janesville.

WAHPC Board information

- **President Debi Hankel**, 321 North Racine Avenue, Waukesha 53186, 262-853-0827, simonhankel@msn.com
- **Vice President Mark Ihm**, 75 Maple Court, Platteville 53818, 608-348-7283, 608-778-7283, mhinwijw@mhtc.net
- **Director-Treasurer Linda Muldoon**, 514 West College Avenue, Appleton 54911, 800-892-4610, coventryglass@usa.net
- **Director Patricia Araktingi**, 1721 King Street, La Crosse 54601, 608-785-7076, paraktingi@centurytel.net
- **Director Bill Weinshrott**, 412 Willow Drive, Fond du Lac 54935, 920-923-2373, wein57@hotmail.com
- **Director Patricia Wolfe**, 9428 West Manitoba Street, West Allis 53227, 414-541-3930.
- **Adviser Rick Bernstein**, Wisconsin Historical Society, 608-264-6583, Rick.Bernstein@wisconsinhistory.org
- **Editor Donald Aucutt**, 1705 5th Avenue, Norway MI 49870, 906-563-8837, donjohn@norwaymi.com

Wisc. Preservation News, a quarterly to inform about WAHPC
2007 *Our 23rd year*

Registration coupon for Evansville meeting

- For WAHPC members: _____ \$40 for both days. _____ \$20 for Friday only or Saturday only
- For nonmembers: _____ \$55 for both days. _____ \$27.50 for Friday only or Saturday only.
- For Evansville residents, students: _____ \$15 for both days or either day.

Name _____

Commission _____

Address _____

City/zip _____

email _____

Phone _____

Payable to WAHPC.
Send to: Linda Muldoon,
Coventry Glassworks,
514 West College Avenue
Appleton WI 54911

_____ I will be unable to attend, but I'm contributing for October 19-20.

See page 1 for note on early-bird registration.

2007 Membership fees:

- _____ \$40 commission.
- _____ \$25 individuals, groups

Payable to WAHPC.
Send to Linda Muldoon.